

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN TRIBUTE TO HIS EXCELLENCY NELSON MANDELA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of former South African President and anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela who passed away on December 5, 2013 at his home in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Today I count myself as one of millions who was inspired by Nelson Mandela's courage and compassion. Mandela was the prisoner who became President. But he was also the statesman who sacrificed his own freedom for the freedom of others and never ceased to be a servant.

Nelson Mandela, affectionately known by his Xhosa clan name "Madiba," was also known as "Tata," the father of a nation. Indeed he was also a father to the world who taught us the fortitude of spirit that comes from forgiveness; a revolutionary who embodied the ministry of reconciliation among his people. In being a faithful brother to the broken and defeated, he became a beacon of light in the midst of darkness.

Nelson Mandela also displayed rare leadership by changing the world through the hearts of men. He fought for human rights through his conviction and faith in the capacity of the human heart to do the right thing. The faith he had—that human beings, communities, and countries can change for the better—leads us forward today as we press towards unity in our families, equality in our communities, and peace among nations.

My heart is also with the people of South Africa at this time and I especially send my deepest sympathy to Mandela's family and his wife, Graca Machel. Thank you for sharing him with all of us.

In a time when there is so much distrust in government throughout the world, we can honor a politician and a peacemaker who taught us the virtue of patience and perseverance. Though we have lost him in this world, we gain the responsibility of carrying on the virtues he displayed. I believe "Madiba" is looking upon us now and reminding us as he once said, "We must use time wisely and forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right."

May God Bless the memory of Nelson Mandela, who will always be a hero to me.

HONORING FRANCES SPURLIN FOR HER SERVICE TO ALABAMA'S SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2013

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct privilege of recognizing a valued member of my staff, Frances Spurlin, who will retire on December 31, 2013, after 27 years of faithful and exemplary service to the United States House of Representatives and Alabama's Second Congressional District.

For almost three decades, Frances has worked as a constituent services representative in Southeast Alabama. She began her Congressional career in 1985 when Representative Bill Dickinson opened a district office in Opp, Alabama. Frances continued her service when Representative Terry Everett assumed office in 1993—and I was honored to have her join my staff when I was sworn into office in 2011.

From veterans to small business owners and from farmers to local and state elected officials, residents of the Second District have benefited from Frances' effective work and compassionate manner. With many cases being time sensitive, Frances never hesitated to go above and beyond to help our constituents cut through bureaucracy and work toward an equitable solution. No matter how big or small, Frances treated each case with diligence, thoughtfulness, and care.

Frances has also served as a mentor to other Congressional staff through the years, instilling her commitment to casework in those she has trained. She has set the example of how to represent a Congressional office with grace, character and ability. I can confidently say that the constituents of Alabama's Second District have been well served by the work of Frances Spurlin.

As she enters retirement, I join my staff and so many others in Southeast Alabama in thanking Frances for her 27 years of public service. To Frances, her husband Gordon, and their family, I wish them health and happiness in the years ahead.

IN TRIBUTE TO JOHN C. WHITE

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2013

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. John C. White for his dedicated service as the Chairman of the Board of the Universal Technical Institute, Inc. We are in sincere gratitude for the vision, guidance, and leadership you have provided to UTI for your thirty seven years of service.

RECOGNIZING MISS EMMA STROM AS THE FLORIDA CLASS 2A STATE CHAMPION IN THE 100- YARD BACKSTROKE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize and congratulate Miss Emma Strom on her extraordinary achievement in high school swimming. Emma, a junior at Choctawhatchee High School in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, swam her career-best time of 55.83 to win the Florida title Class 2A state championship in the 100-yard backstroke.

From a young age, Emma displayed a great talent for swimming and was blessed with having the support of her family to share her passion for aquatics. Her parents as well as her siblings, Amelia, Alex, and Olivia, are all involved in the swimming community. Mr. Strom has coached swimming for years, while Mrs. Strom is a certified swim meet official. Emma's sister, Amelia, who is also a student at Choctawhatchee High School, participated in the state meet and was able to share in Emma's moment of victory.

In addition to her commitment and passion for swimming, Emma possesses an excellent academic record and is highly involved both at Choctawhatchee High, as well as, in the greater community. As a participant in the Advanced Placement Program, Emma maintains a 4.46 weighted GPA and is active in several academic and community service clubs in addition to her rigorous swim training schedule. Her passion for swimming is also exemplified by her involvement in the community team, Coast Aquatics, as well as, her time coaching young swimmers at Meigs Middle School in Shalimar, Florida. Emma also serves her parish, St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fort Walton Beach, as an altar server.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Miss Emma Strom on her swimming state championship. Her hard work and dedication shines through in everything she does. My wife Vicki and I wish her all the best for continued success both athletically and academically.

HONORING VOLUNTEERS FROM OREGON VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2013

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleague Rep. KURT SCHRADER and myself, I rise today to convey our deepest appreciation to the team members of both the Klamath County and the Marion County Veterans Treatment Courts on visiting the nation's capital this week. These Oregonians are here to

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